



ReEchoes

Vol. 127 | Summer 2023

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings USA Alumni!

This has been a busy year! Now that the pandemic has scaled back, I have put my concert ministry back in gear and has God ever been doing amazing things! My wife, Emma, and I have been concentrating on the truth about God in our programs and so many people are responding to the upbeat concerts and the view of God as Friend, Savior and Lord. Folks are realizing that they've been believing the same lie that the enemy told in Heaven to the rebellious angels and to our first parents in the garden. And as a result, we've seen so much joy on peoples' faces and wonderful comments after the services.

On a not-so-happy note, we've had our share of sadness recently. In April, my sister-in-law, Julie Hunt, suffered a massive stroke. We lost her two weeks later. She taught Health, was the school nurse, and was a huge supporter of the academy and Frontenac Church School. She spent countless hours with students at the schools and in her home and had had a major impact on so many.

Recently, we've been asking for prayer for several key alumni: Pastor Mike Temple, '82, suffered a severe heart-attack and had a heart transplant; Dan Boyd, '81, is on the waiting list for a liver transplant; and our archivist, Ed Runnals, '73, and Becky Fraker, former staff, are both home recovering after struggling with health issues. I'm sure there are others, but these came to mind as they and their families would appreciate your prayers. The enemy is attacking, but we've seen miracles. Your continued prayers would be much appreciated.

As we've been touring, we've run into several USA alumni. Some have not kept up with the news and are so excited as we've told them about how the Lord is blessing the academy and all that's been going on the past couple of years! It has been a joy to relay the message of the progress we've made, the events we've

put together, and the plans we have for the coming months and years. They're also learning that we have an election coming up for a new Vice President, Treasurer and Membership Secretary. If you know any alumni who would be good to serve in these roles; or if you have a desire to serve, please let me or the Executive Secretary know by August 4th, 2023 to get the name(s) submitted for approval. The voting will take place at Alumni Weekend, which takes place this year from September 22-24.

Speaking of Alumni Weekend, please make your way to Union Springs this fall! It is such a beautiful time of year. We would love to set a record for attendance. With what is planned, such as Eric Doran's powerful testimony to Selah live in concert, this is one you won't want to miss!

Well, it has been an exciting and exhilarating twenty-one months serving as your president. I have learned much and have made many new and lasting friendships as a result. One of those is John Cardinell. He has supported me as Vice President for the past year and previously as Project Manager. Now he is gearing up to take over as president in September and I have no doubt he will have success during his administration. I trust you will support him and all the committed and loyal members of the Alumni Board as they work hard to make our organization strong, effective, and Christ-centered.

We'll see you in September!

Blessings to all of you.



Jeff Hunt '68
Alumni President



Alumni Association Executive Officers

President:

Jeff Hunt '68
jeffhuntministries@hotmail.com

Vice President:

John Cardinell '78

Membership Secretary:

Position Open

Academy Liaison:

Janica Kaltsas-Caster '90
jcaster@unionspringsacademy.org
315-889-7314 ext. 106

Past President:

Karen Weber-Reynolds '75

Treasurer:

Netta Smith-Blakes '82

Executive Secretary:

Terralyn Greene-Dickerman '61

Communications Director:

Penny Gebhard Pagett '92

Member-at-Large:

Judi Bentz-Eells '65
Ingrid Satelmajer-Pelley '88

Projects Coordinator:

Bill Boyd '80

Officer Assistants:

Social Secretary:

Phyllis Caster-Peck '59,

Archives/Memorabilia:

Ed Runnals '73 and Brent Runnals '99

ReEchoes Editor and Layout Designer:

Penny Gebhard Pagett '92
David Berthiaume (ChristianMediaOutlet.com)

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Mary Htoo '19,

Assistant Membership Secretary:

Kim Runnals '19

Alumni Facebook Coordinator:

Patty Hitchcock-Dunham '85

Military Representatives:

Terry Schermerhorn '62 and
Tim & Stephanie Moore '09

Photographers:

Kay Duncan-Lavonier '98
Ed Runnals '73

Contributing Editors - Alumni Association Officers

Contributing Writers:

Janica Kaltsas-Caster '90, Jeremy Garlock - USA Principal, Emma Hunt - Honorary Alumna, Jeff Hunt '68, Penny Gebhard-Pagett '92, Dick Tibbits '68

DEVOTIONAL BY DICK TIBBITS CLASS OF '68

"And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise." Philippians 4:8 New Living Translation

How is it that two people can go to Union Springs Academy, and one has the best experience of their life and the other the worst? It is the same school, the same teachers and the same classmates. So what is the difference?

Carl Jung once said: "It all depends on how we look at things, and not on how things are in themselves." Your perspective becomes your truth. But keep this in mind, your truth is not the whole truth. It is simply your perspective.

We tend to focus on those things that match how we believe things to be. For example, how can one who was your best friend become your worse enemy. The answer is it depends on what you choose to focus on. Focus on a person's good attributes and they are a good person. Focus on someone's bad characteristics and they are a bad person.

There is a saying that "love is blind." What does that mean? It means when you love someone, you only focus on their good characteristics. While others see warning signs, you only see the opportunities. Your view of the person depends on what you choose to focus on. It is equally true that hate is blind. If that

person you once loved does something to harm you, and you shift your focus to all their negative characteristics, you will no longer like that person. In fact, they may become your enemy and you no longer want anything to do with them. Here is the irony; your worst enemy is someone else's best friend. That person is the same, so what is different? The difference is in what each person chooses to focus on.

As you look back upon your years at Union Springs Academy, what do you focus on? The good, the bad or the ugly? The truth is, it was all there. If you think about it, there were many good things that happened and friends that were made along the way. Some things that happened in the past, were not good. I wish they never happened. That injustice may need to be named to be understood and to prevent it from ever happening again. But once named, do you dwell on it, or do you forgive it? Dwelling exclusively on negative things, is like drinking poison. You simply cannot take a poison pill and hope the other person dies. Be careful, you may be hurting yourself more than anyone else. I am reminded of what Paul said in our text, what you think about makes all the difference. What do you choose to focus on about your years at Union Springs Academy?

Dick Tibbits

Class of '68

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

I want to thank each and every one of the alumni who has prayed for me over the past ten months as I have gone through what I am now calling my cancer journey. It is amazing to me how God shows up at just the right times. Five months ago I was trying to survive, and today, by God's grace, I am not just surviving, I am thriving! Thank you, again, for your prayers and support for my family and me during this time.

And I am not the only one who has gone from surviving to thriving. Our USA, not that many years ago, was also in survival mode. But today, again, by God's grace, we are no longer just surviving, but thriving. And this should be no surprise. This has been His school since 1921, and He continues to provide and bless beyond our wildest dreams.

If you have not heard of our most recent initiatives then you may not be as excited as I am. Our rich history included deep spiritual commitment, the training of missionaries, preparing students for college, and teaching them how to work so they could join the workforce and give glory to God through their labor. Over the years, often due to lack of funds, we have slowly drifted from some of these foundational values. But we are embracing them again in powerful ways.

A number of years ago we started a certificate program through CISCO Networking so that students could be trained in technology and go into the workforce straight out of high school. We have continued this program but have also added other certificate programs. Last year we became the first school in the North American Division to partner with Amazing Facts to offer the Amazing Discipleship Program, deepening our spiritual programming. This year we have brought back agriculture through

another certificate program called Acquainting Agriculture, with plans to continue adding to the agricultural program as permitted. And we are already speaking with other potential partners to bring training in a variety of trades to USA over the course of the next five years with the hope of providing a full trade education program.

This does not mean that our college preparatory program has suffered. On the contrary, we have attracted high-performing students from literally around the globe who are not just taking courses here at USA, but are also taking dual credit courses for college credit through Andrews University and Kettering College. Our own teachers are approved to teach some of these courses, so college courses are actually being taught right here at Union Springs Academy.

Students and families are seeing the difference. It used to be very difficult to recruit, but today we shine so brightly that we had over 100 students come through our doors last year, and have had over 90 come through our doors this year. And our biggest recruiters are our students. Whether it is the revived music department going on tours or our students telling their friends back home, we have many who are seeking out a quality education and deeper walk with Jesus at USA.

Once again, we finished the school year strong, and as we prepare for another great year ahead, we can only say, "To God be the glory! Great things He hath done!"

Jeremy Garlock
Principal, USA



Students and Staff - 2022-2023 School Year

2023 ALUMNI WEEKEND - HONOR CLASSES



Class of 2018



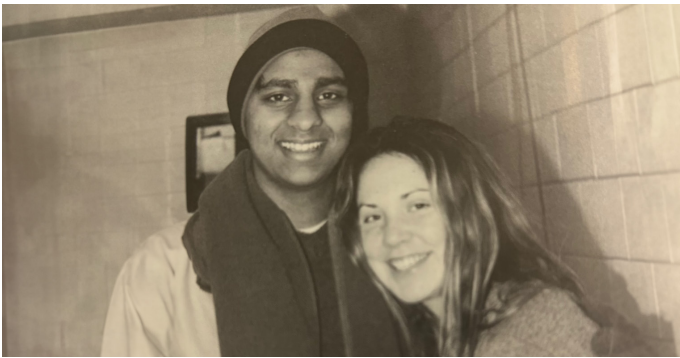
2013 - Left: Ariel Saravia Right: K'Shaw Paw



Class of 2008: L to R: Top: Katie Ford, Jackie Taylor, China Silverstein, Noelle Knight, Morgan Pletcher, Bottom: Bryn Charles, Aaron Boyd, Emily Robidoux



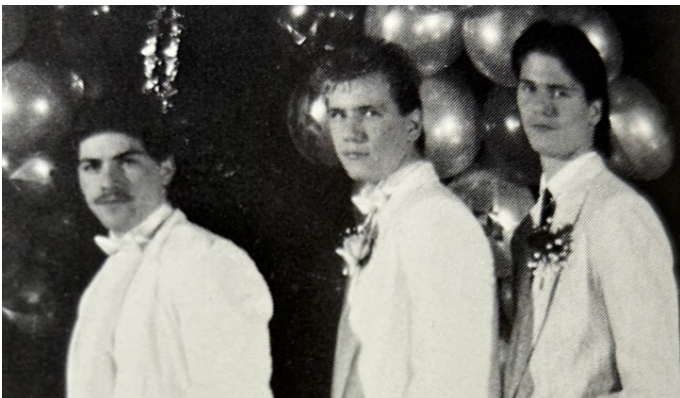
Class of 2003: L to R: Top: Mr. Steve Fraker, Jason Obomsawin, Jessica Fraker, Emily Moore, Joshua Marsh, Katrina Landa, Theresa Mamah, & Alicia Mathewson



1998 - Left to right: Tarun Kapoor, Shana Stilphen



1993 - Left to right: Ken Reinhart, Reuben Cabrera, Nathan Cobb



1988 - Left to right: John Joseph Hammer, Steven Krajewski, David Retz



1983 - Left to Right: David Santos, David Nowakowski, and Heidi Kimbal

2023 ALUMNI WEEKEND - HONOR CLASSES



1978's Senior Class Wedding (Bible Class project) featuring:
Left to right: Darlene LaRock, Carol Alred, Kirsten Crandall, Larry Zeiders, Mark Candy, Randy Larson, Steve Caster, Ray Randall.



1973 - Left to right: Holly Preston, Mary Ellen Wielt, Terri Kinney, Diane Nudd, Donald May, Kathy Cavender, Bob DeLong



1968 - Left to Right - Ray Halbritter, Barbara Thames, Jeanne Colaw, Carol Meisner, Sandra Parsons, Tim Boundy, and Dick Tibbits seated



1963 - John Spielman and Paul Skudrits



1958 - Back row left to right: Arlin Wells, David Lacy, John Miller, Carrol Groome, Sandra Bent, and Joyce Kneller.



1953: Left to right: Judson Jamieson, Elizabeth Kim, Janice Wright, Barbara Secor, Erwin Coe, Cesar Carrasquero



1948 - The Mello-Ettes from 1948!



1943 - Roland Ruf - Valedictorian speech - (Roland Ruf at 98, continues to serve the Lord as a retired pastor in Collegedale, TN.

THE WAYMARKS TO PERFORM AFTER 53 YEARS



The Covid pandemic affected so many things, including several USA Alumni Weekends. Whether it was an event cancellation or participants cancelling, our programs have felt the difficulties created by Covid itself or the fears it caused. So, when the Centennial in 2021 was planned, one of the musical presentations was going to be by The Waymarks, but Covid concerns won out and their appearance was cancelled. That would have been the first time the group would perform in 51 years. Now, two years later, the group is back on the calendar for the 2023 USA Alumni Weekend! A Sabbath afternoon spiritual concert and a basketball halftime secular program will see The Waymarks using their voices and instruments once again after such a long time! Now, those under the age of 60, more than likely have never heard of The Waymarks unless parents or grandparents mentioned them or had bought a Chapel Records album the group had recorded. That was during the time when

folk music's popularity was winding down, but had ruled the day during the 60's. Many were calling the group the "Wegdewood Trio" of the east. The Atlantic Union College based group was made up of Gary Steele and Jeff Hunt, who were in the USA Class of 1968 and had previously been attending Southern Missionary College, now Southern Adventist University. The third member, Stacy Nelson had been singing in a group that performed at Knott's Berry Farm in California. Stacy came to AUC when his father became the college President. It wasn't long until the musicians' paths crossed and music started to be made. Soon Atlantic Union College was asking the trio to perform on campus and elsewhere, including sending the group for a summer doing the recruiting for the college. At the same time, the Southern New England Youth Department was using them many weekends around the conference or at Camp Winnekeag. Along with those appearances, The Waymarks sang on the beaches, youth rallies, every state in the Atlantic Union, at Kingsway College in Canada, at the General Conference Session in Atlantic City, NJ, sang all day for every art class at Palmer High School in MA, on home plate in Yankee Stadium and often at USA. The Southern New England Conference gave them their own office/storage/rehearsal room, a secretary and a key to the building. Now, looking back over all that's happened in 53 years, it has been easy for the guys to see God's blessings and have found a renewed desire to sing about Him again, together.

Jeff Hunt '68
Alumni President

FLORIDA CHAPTER REUNION



FLORIDA REUNION

More than 25 loyal USA alumni who are Florida residents or snowbirds, came together for a special day of faith, fun, food, and fellowship on March 18th. Alumni President, Jeff Hunt, class of '68, welcomed everyone and introduced the program. Janica Caster, class of '90, provided an update on what is happening at the Academy; John Cardinell, class

of '78, Alumni Vice President, shared his experiences at USA and encouraged all to come to Renovations Week; and Principal, Jeremy Garlock, shared his vision of the future and progress to come in a pre-recorded message. We were also blessed to have the founder of the Alumni Association and it's first President, Bud Schermerhorn, class of '55, with us and listen to some history and anecdotes of his days at USA. He and his sweet wife, Joan, travelled several hours to be with us. Their presence certainly was a highlight. Tim Boundy, class of '68, and world class birder, provided an outstanding presentation on birding and nature with magnificent photos taken from his travels around the country and beyond. Lively conversations were shared, great memories were recalled, and new friendships were formed. Some came for the worship service at the East Pasco Church and many stayed for the awesome evening concert by the award-winning Down East Boys Quartet. It was a great event, and we are looking to do more of this kind of programming again in Florida and around the country in the future.

Emma Hunt
Honorary Alumna

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WANTED

If you have any USA memorabilia or old yearbooks that you would like to donate, please bring them to alumni weekend for the USA Museum. We are especially looking for years 1936, 1937, and 1938.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS CAMPAIGN

You can support the Academy and the Alumni Association by buying a brick for a loved one, to celebrate your class, or any occasion. Visit unionspringsacademy.org to order!

STILL AVAILABLE

Centennial Yearbooks - On sale for \$25. Purchase at alumni weekend or we can ship! Visit unionspringsacademy.org to order!

CENTENNIAL HISTORY BOOK RELEASE!

Dr. Brian Strayer's book will be dedicated, signed and sold at alumni weekend!

USA EAGLE CAMPAIGN

Help USA SOAR into the future by joining the Eagle Campaign! Scan QR code

COMING ALUMNI WEEKEND!



Think you have the best vegetarian chili recipe? Bring a crockpot to the Chili Cook-Off on Saturday night of Alumni Weekend for a chance to be crowned the Chili Master.

OPEN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION POSITIONS:

We will held a regular election at the Fall alumni weekend and have the following positions open for running:

- Vice President
- Membership Secretary
- Treasurer

Non-voting officer volunteer positions open are:

-Class (CR) & Faculty (FR) Representative Coordinator

To run for any of these positions, or to suggest an alumnus, please email our president at jeffhuntministries@hotmail.com or call the USA Development/Alumni Office at 315-889-7314 by August 4, 2023 to follow our Constitution election guidelines for approval.

ALUMNI TREASURER REPORT

General Alumni Trust	\$2,900.96
Class of 1961 Scholarship	\$1,655.00
Class of 1955 Scholarship	\$450.00
Lucille Cardinell Nursing Scholarship	\$2,100.00
John B. Foote Memorial Scholarship	\$24,230.00

CHILI COOK OFF

ALWAYS REMEMBERED ~ NEVER FORGOTTEN

We do not always receive notification when a death occurs so if there are alumni missing from this list, please let the Alumni Association know by emailing the full name and date of death to our Executive Secretary, Terralyn Greene Dickerman at usaexecutivesecretary@gmail.com or calling the school Advancement/Alumni Office at 315-889-7314. We truly want to remember and honor each person so thank you for helping us in this important matter.

*Updates since our last report in the Spring 2023 issue of ReEchoes

Class of 1961	James Barrett	Deceased 12/05/2015
Class of 1948	LaVerne Harris-Pilinko	Deceased 12/27/2021
Class of 1940	Lester Stannard, Jr.	Deceased 10/14/2022
Class of 1957	Arthur Franke	Deceased 10/29/2022
Class of 1957	Marilyn Marie Miller	Deceased 01/13/2023
Class of 1958	Florence Gibbous-Cook	Deceased 02/06/2023
Class of 1957	David Kneller	Deceased 02/23/2023
Class of 1956	Brandstatter (Martyn) Brooks	Deceased 03/04/2023
Former Staff	Julie Hunt	Deceased 03/28/2023
Class of 1980	Kim Wolfe-Lamb	Deceased 04/17/2023
Class of 1953	Hazel Parker-Armstrong	Deceased 05/14/2023
Class of 1971	Ellen Brasted-Freville	Deceased 06/22/2023



September 24, 2023

VIP Preview Show: 3:30 PM
Doors Open: 4:00 PM
Concert: 4:30 PM

SELAH



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Skantz Pavilion
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315-889-7314

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